

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
EASTERN DIVISION

B.B., a minor, by and)	
Through his mother and next friend,)	
OWENA KNOWLES,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	CASE NO.:
)	3:06-CV-00715-MHT
v.)	
)	
NORINCO a/k/a CHINA NORTH)	
INDUSTRIES)	
CORPORATION, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

DEFENDANT QIQIHAR HAWK INDUSTRIES CO. LTD.'S
AMENDED ANSWER TO COMPLAINT AND AMENDED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the defendant, Qiqihar Hawk Industries Co. Ltd., pursuant to Rule 15(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and for its amended answer to the Complaint and Amended Complaints of the plaintiff, would show the Court as follows:

1. Paragraph 1 of the Complaint does not appear to call for a response but to the extent that it does the averments are denied.

2. Paragraph 2 of the Complaint does not appear to call for a response but to the extent that it does the averments are denied.

3. Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the averments of paragraph 3 of the Complaint and they are therefore denied.

4. The averments of paragraph 4 of the Complaint are admitted.

5. The averments of paragraph 5 of the Complaint are admitted.

6. The averments of paragraph 6 of the Complaint are denied.

7. The averments of paragraph 7 of the Complaint are denied.

8. The averments of paragraph 8 of the Complaint are denied.

9. The averments of paragraph 9 of the Complaint are denied.

10. The averments of paragraph 10 of the Complaint are denied.

11. In answer to paragraph 11 of the Complaint, defendant adopts and incorporates by this reference its answers and denials to paragraphs 1–10 of the Complaint as if fully set out herein.

12. The averments of paragraph 12 of the Complaint are denied.

13. The averments of paragraph 13, including subparagraphs (a)-(g), are denied.

14. In answer to paragraph 14 of the Complaint, defendant adopts and incorporates by this reference its answers and denials to paragraphs 1-13 of the Complaint as if fully set out herein.

15. The averments of paragraph 15 of the Complaint are denied.

16. The averments of paragraph 16 of the Complaint, including subparagraphs (a)-(g), are denied.

17. In answer to paragraph 17 of the Complaint, defendant adopts and incorporates by this reference its answers and denials to paragraph 1-16 of the Complaint as if fully set out herein.

18. The averments of paragraph 18 of the Complaint are denied.

19. The averments of paragraph 19 of the Complaint are denied.

20. The averments of paragraph 20 of the Complaint, including subparagraphs (a)-(g), are denied.

21. Defendant denies that plaintiff is entitled to the relief demanded by him in the *ad damnum* clause of the Complaint.

22. In answer to paragraph 1 of the Amendment to Complaint filed on July 19, 2007 (hereinafter “Amendment to Complaint”), Qiqihar Hawk admits that it is a Chinese entity but denies all other averments of this paragraph.

23. In answer to paragraph 2 of the Amendment to Complaint, defendant adopts and incorporates by this reference its answers and denials to the averments of the original Complaint as if fully setout herein.

24. Defendant denies each and every material averment of the Complaint, and any amendment thereto, not expressly admitted hereinabove and demands strict thereof.

And in further answer to the Complaint, defendant asserts the following affirmative defenses:

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

First Defense

The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

Second Defense

Defendant pleads the general issue.

Third Defense

Plaintiff was contributorily negligent and such negligence caused or contributed to the cause of his injuries.

Fourth Defense

Plaintiff assumed the risk of any hazard which caused the alleged injuries.

Fifth Defense

There is a lack of privity between this defendant and plaintiff.

Sixth Defense

No act or omission of this defendant was the proximate cause of any injury to the plaintiff. There is a lack of cause or relation between plaintiff's alleged injuries and any conduct on the part of this defendant.

Seventh Defense

This defendant is entitled to a setoff or credit for any amounts received by plaintiff from any source whatsoever with respect to the injuries and damages alleged in this action.

Eighth Defense

Defendant is not liable to the plaintiff with respect to injuries alleged because such injuries, if any, were caused by accident in terms of the law.

Ninth Defense

Plaintiff misused the product which caused or contributed to the cause of his alleged injuries.

Tenth Defense

Plaintiff failed to give timely notice of the alleged breach of warranty.

Eleventh Defense

Plaintiff's claims fall outside the scope of any express or implied warranty.

Twelfth Defense

Defendant asserts a failure or lack of consideration.

Thirteenth Defense

Defendant reserves the right to amend this answer to assert additional affirmative defenses that may be revealed during the course of this litigation.

Fourteenth Defense

Federal law may preempt some or all of plaintiff's claims.

Fifteenth Defense

Plaintiff has failed to mitigate his damages.

Sixteenth Defense

The subject product was changed, altered, modified, or otherwise in a condition different from the condition in which it entered the stream of commerce.

Seventeenth Defense

The affirmative defenses of waiver, estoppel and laches are pled.

Eighteenth Defense

Plaintiff's claims are barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

Nineteenth Defense

The allegations against this defendant must be evaluated according to the state of the industrial art and the state of the law at the existing time. Defendant evokes all state-of-the-art defenses applicable to the plaintiff's claims.

Twentieth Defense

Plaintiff is barred from recovering any damages because there was not a practical or technically feasible alternative design that would have prevented the harm alleged by plaintiff without substantially impairing the usefulness or intended purpose of the subject product.

Twenty-First Defense

Plaintiff's claims against Qiqihar Hawk are barred to the extent the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7901-03, applies to this action.

Twenty-Second Defense

The dangers and/or defects of which Plaintiff complains were open and obvious and should have been observed by Plaintiff in the exercise of reasonable care.

Rule 44.1 Notice

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 44.1, notice is hereby given that Qiqihar Hawk may raise issues relating to the law of the People's Republic of China.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Todd M. Higey

Todd M. Higey

Ala. Bar No. HIG019

Attorney for Qiqihar Hawk

Industries Co. Ltd.

ADAMS AND REESE LLP

2100 3rd Avenue North, Suite 1100

Birmingham, Alabama 35203-3367

Telephone: (205) 250-5000

Fax: (205) 250-5034

E-mail: todd.higey@arlaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 6, 2007, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the persons listed below:

David J. Hodge, Esq.
PITTMAN, DUTTON, KIRBY & HELLUMS, P.C.
2001 Park Place North
1100 Park Place Tower
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

James C. Barton, Jr., Esq.
Alan D. Mathis, Esq.
JOHNSTON, BARTON, PROCTOR & POWELL, LLP
2900 AmSouth/Harbert Plaza
1901 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Nick Wooten, Esq.
WOOTEN LAW FIRM, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 290
Lafayette, Alabama 36862

/s/Todd M. Higey

Of Counsel